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Transportation and Communications Committee  
February 3, 2005

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***Action Minutes***

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Transportation and Communications Committee held its meeting at SCAG Offices downtown Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Lee Ann Garcia, Chair, City of Grand Terrace. There was a quorum.

**Members Present**

Adams, Steve	Riverside, WRCOG
Aldinger, Jim	City of Manhattan Beach
Baldwin, Harry	City of San Gabriel
Beauman, John	City of Brea
Becerra, Glen	City of Simi Valley
Bone, Lou	City of Tustin
Brown, Art	City of Buena Park
Burke, Yvonne	City of Los Angeles
Dale, Lawrence	City of Barstow
Daniels, Gene	City of Paramount
De Young, Cathryn	City of Laguna Niguel
Flickinger, Bonnie	City of Moreno Valley
Garcia, Lee Ann	City of Grand Terrace
George, Gary	City of Redlands
Gurule, Frank	City of Cudahy
Herrera, Carol	SGVCOG
Lowe, Robin	City of Hemet/RCTC
Lowenthal, Bonnie	City of Long Beach
Mikels, Judy	Ventura County
Miller, Llewellyn	City of Claremont
Miller, Paul	City of Simi Valley
Millhouse, Keith	City of Moorpark
O'Connor, Pam	City of Santa Monica
Ovitt, Gary	San Bernardino County
Pettis, Greg	Cathedral City
Proo, Bea	City of Pico Rivera
Ridgeway, Tod	City of Newport Beach
Rutherford, Mark	City of Westlake Village
Smith, Greg	City of Los Angeles
Spence, David	City of Arroyo Verdugo
Stanford, Dick	City of Azusa

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Stone, Jeff	Riverside County
Sykes, Tom	City of Walnut
Szerlip, Don	South Bay Cities
Tyler, Sidney	City of Pasadena

**Members Not Present**

Buckley, Tom	City of Lake Elsinore
Cervantes, Jesus	Commerce, Gateway Cities COG
DeLara, Juan	City of Coachella
Dixon, Richard	City of Lake Forrest
Dunlap, Judy	City of Inglewood
Fasana, John	City of Duarte
Gabelich, Rae	City of Long Beach
Hall, Isadore	City of Compton
Hernandez, Robert	City of Anaheim
Herzog, Peter	OCOG
Keenan, Tim	City of Cypress
Marshall, Patsy	City of Buena Park
Nuaimi, Mark	City of Fontana
Roberts, Ron	City of Temecula
Smyth, Cameron	City of Santa Clarita
Talbot, Paul	City of Alhambra
Uranga, Tonia Reyes	City of Long Beach

**New Members**

Paul Miller	City of Simi Valley
Keith Millhouse	City of Moorpark

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE**

Chair Honorable Lee Ann Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Don Kornreich, citizen, Laguna Woods, came forward to urge the Committee to be more enthusiastic about Maglev. He went on to state, that he felt that Maglev needed to play a more permanent role in the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Kornreich said that he strongly felt that the Maglev Demonstration Project needed to get started fairly soon. Mr. Kornreich felt that without a twenty-mile demonstration project similar to the one in China, Maglev would not be able to get off the ground. Additionally, he urged SCAG to come up with an investor-oriented study in the next few months.

**3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE**

Chair Garcia recommended that the Consent Calendar be reprioritized in the following order: follow through with the Consent Calendar including a five-minute presentation on 4.2.3, State Budget Update. Then Action Item 5.1, Work Program and Timeline for 2007 RTP Update. Followed by 6.1, Health Effects of Diesel Air Pollution, followed by 6.4, Update on the Inland Empire Mainline Railroad Study, followed by 6.5, Port and Modal Elasticity Study, then close with 6.2, Goods Movement White Paper for Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing. Item 6.3, The Shanghai Maglev Experience will be postponed for a future Committee meeting.

**4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

**4.1 Approval Item**

4.1.1 Approve Minutes of January 6, 2005

**4.2 Receive and File**

4.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix

4.2.2 SCAG Future Events Calendar

4.2.3 State Budget Update

4.2.4 Southern California Consensus Program

4.2.5 I-710 (Ocean Boulevard to SR-60) Letter of Completion

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MOTION was made to pull items 4.2.1, 4.2.4, and 4.2.3 for discussion.

MOTION was then made to approve the balance of the Consent Calendar items, SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**4.2.1 State and Federal Legislative Matrix**

Dick Stanford, City of Azusa, stated that he had noted and was concerned that the 'Go California' Program would be announced in about sixty days. Putting aside some of the transportation funding has some concerns because it is a loss for our match of federal funds. He went on to state that he felt the Committee needed to look at alternatives to the Legislative Program.

Chair Garcia then introduced Paul Bower, SCAG Lobbyist to say a few words on the subject.

Mr. Bower stated that he agreed that the Committee could not move forward without being creative in with its solutions. To that end Mark Pisano, SCAG Director, and he met with Tom Campbell, Director of the Department of Finance to discuss the Governor's proposal to suspend Proposition 42, which would then pay SCAG back in fifteen years. At this meeting we stated that if SCAG was going to be paid back in over fifteen years a discussion would then be needed on the interest costs that the state would have to reimburse to SCAG. Because borrowing that money is going to be expensive and will cut into project delivery.

**4.2.4 Southern California Consensus Program**

Dick Stanford, City of Azusa, state that Los Angeles County MTA is not signing off on the Consensus because it has one of SCAG's priority projects in it, Gold Line II. This is basically due because Supervisor Yaroslavsky does not like this project. Consequently MTA is not signing off on it, not making it a Consensus Program without them.

The Consensus Letter currently leaves out Los Angeles County because that is where the County chooses to be because of this one particular project. Mr. Stanford concluded that he would hope they would see this differently.

Hasan Ikhata, SCAG Staff, then stated that the new consensus document does include all the counties, including MTA, and the projects did not change from last time so the Gold Line II is still in the Consensus document.

Mr. Stanford then inquired if MTA was signing off on the document. Mr. Ikhata responded that they were and stated that they were sending elected officials and staff to Sacramento.

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4.2.2 State Budget Update

Annie Nam, SCAG staff, gave a brief presentation on the state budget overview particularly as items relate to transportation.

Ms. Nam pointed out some of the ongoing funding issues that are going to impact the development of the 2006 STIP:

- the continued diversion of Proposition 42
- Tribal Gaming revenue has become problematic
- increasing cost of the Bay Bridge
- the reauthorization of TEA

The California Transportation Commission adopts the 2006 STIP fund estimate in August 2005, the four factors previously mentioned are critical in the development of this next step.

MOTION was made to approve the balance of the Consent Calendar items, SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

5.1 Work Program and Timeline for 2007 RTP Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG Staff, gave a brief overview on the next RTP Update. The current plan was adopted in April of 2004. Staff has until April 2007 to update the next plan. Since the plan was adopted a number of issues have developed that may warrant amending the plan or updating the plan sooner in order to assure that the integrity of the Plan, as well as the conformity, is maintained.

The proposed State Budget may put the proposed Transportation Revenue Forecast in the current Plan out of sync. On the positive side, Measure I in San Bernardino County passed which is part of the Plan. At the same time the additional half-cent sales tax in Los Angeles County, which was also part of the RTP, has not moved forward. The implication of this is approximately four billion dollars, which may not be available. Added to that, Orange County is seriously considering their Measure M Extension issue. Over the next several months they are going to be developing an expenditure plan associated with the Measure M Extension along with their long range plan update and the associated EIR. The issue here is that Measure M Extension is currently not included in the RTP.

The other issue in Orange County is the Centerline. The Orange County Board is discussing what will ultimately be done with the Centerline project. Depending on the nature and timing of that decision, we may need to look into updating the plan early as well.

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These issues were discussed at the last Plans and Programs Technical Advisor Committee and the basic input they had was that there was a need to understand and articulate adequately the rationale for any plan amendment or early update. They specifically pointed out that there was a need to consider all the implications of all the planning processes, for example the 2006 STIP, 2007 SIP, and the Regional Housing Needs Allocation Process, which SCAG is proposing to be in sync with the RTP. The basic sentiment at this meeting was that it was too early to conclude that an amendment, or the early update expressed, was warranted at this point. The TAC is planning on convening again on February 17, 2005 to further discuss these issues and come up with some recommendation for the Committee.

Given this situation, what Staff recommends at this point is that the Committee directs Staff to move forward with a tri-annual update process. And further direct Staff to continue assessing and monitoring potential need for an amendment or early update and report back to the Committee with specific recommendation in a timely manner.

Bonnie Lowenthal, City of Long Beach, stated that as she understood the report, there could be a potential interim amendment to the 2004 RTP. Ms. Lowenthal asked if it would be appropriate to incorporate and update an amendment to include the completed plans for the 710?

Hasan Ikhata, SCAG Staff, responded by stating it would depend if it was a simple amendment or an update. If it is an early update, all issues including the 710 have to be updated according to the actions of the COG. Mr. Ikhata requested that the Committee give Staff until March to come back and inform them whether there will be an update, amendment, or move forward with the tri-annual schedule. If an update is done, all issues need to be looked at and decisions have to be made about a new plan. If Staff does update the plan it will move up the process by eight to nine months.

Mr. Ikhata concluded by saying that Staff's recommendation was to approve the regular schedule having in mind, that Staff may come back to the Committee with an amendment.

MOTION was made to approve Staff recommendation to move forward with the Work Plan. MOTION was SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

## **6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Health Effects of Diesel Air Pollution**

Dr. Ed Avol, a Professor in the Environmental Health Division at the Department of Preventive Medicine, USC Keck School of Medicine, provided a presentation on

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recent research into the public health effects of air pollution from diesel vehicle engines.

The USC Keck School of Medicine has been conducting a long-term Children's Health Study that has recently produced some significant findings. In September 2004, the New England Journal of Medicine published results indicating that current levels of air pollution have chronic adverse effects on lung development in children between 10 and 18 years of age. In the study, public health data were correlated with measured concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) at various locations around the South Coast Air Basin. The associations with health effects seen in the study were primarily from pollutants arising from mobile sources. Earlier studies have also linked health effects such as asthma and increased strokes in adults with proximity to freeways. These studies have direct implications for transportation projects and land use planning throughout the SCAG region.

6.4 Update on the Inland Empire Mainline Railroad Study

Mr. Rob Leachman, Leachman and Associates, presented a study of the Inland Empire Mainline Rail which examines current train volume and operating conditions and forecast rail traffic for the years 2010 and 2025. This includes freight, Metrolink, and Amtrak trains, on the mainline rail network extending from Colton east to Indio and north to Barstow. Work currently in progress includes conducting alternative analysis for accommodating future growth, analyzing railroad-related emissions, and working with the railroads to obtain their input.

The alternatives will be ranked based on the costs and benefits derived from each scenario. In deriving these rankings, the study will take into consideration factors such as the costs of specific rail infrastructure improvements needed to implement each alternative, as well as rail-related emissions and vehicular delays resulting from each alternative. This ranking will provide a basis from which to recommend a preferred alternative for accommodating future rail traffic that represents the optimal combination of costs and benefits to both the public and private sector.

This study is expected to be completed by June 30, 2005.

6.5 Port and Modal Elasticity Study

Mr. Rob Leachman, Leachman and Associates, presented a summary of the purpose of the Port and Modal Elasticity Study. The study will determine the probability of diversion occurring between the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and other U.S. (including west, east, and gulf coast) and Canadian ports, as well as between modes of transportation (truck and rail), should user fees be assessed to goods imported via the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

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The study includes determining total transportation costs, the value of transit time, industry trends, the funding potential of container user fees, computing cargo demand elasticity's for rail and truck modes, and determining the most appropriate point user fees could be assessed to avoid diversion to other ports and/or other modes.

This study is expected to be completed by June 30, 2005.

6.2 Goods Movement White Paper (Draft) for Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing

Nancy Pfeffer, SCAG staff, gave a summary on the white paper draft prepared on regional goods movement issues at the request of Business, Transportation & Housing (BT&H) Secretary Sunne McPeak. The paper describes current needs for the goods movement system and what the state and federal government can do to help the region meet these needs.

In late November the Secretary asked SCAG to work with the LA County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), the region's transportation agencies, goods movement system operators and other stakeholders to develop a white paper describing the region's needs. The paper was developed and provided in initial form to the Secretary for a fact-finding meeting with the principals – CEO's and other senior management – of the participants in the process on December 15, 2004, in Sacramento.

Staff will update the Committee on the process of finalizing the paper and next steps at the regional and state levels.

6.2 The Shanghai Maglev Experience

This item was postponed until the next committee meeting.

**7.0 MAGLEV TASK FORCE REPORT**

Robin Lowe, City of Hemet, reported that the Task Force met last month and there was a report given by Zahi Faranesh and Jim Gosnell, SCAG Staff, on their trip to Shanghai, China. This report will be presented to the Committee at next months meeting.

The Task Force also continued to work on the MOU between the City of Los Angeles and Ontario and the entity of SANBAG, there are some problems with it. Councilmember Lowe continued that she personally agreed with the City of Ontario on their views. The Task Force will be meeting with Ontario's Mayor shortly and will continue to work on the MOU with the City of Los Angeles.



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**8.0 CHAIR REPORT**

None at this time.

**9.0 STAFF REPORT**

None at this time

**10.0 GOODS MOVEMENT TASK FORCE REPORT**

None at this time.

**11.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

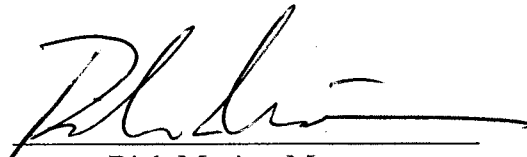
Mr. Steven Adams, City of Riverside, stated that he'd like to see the report on traffic mitigation from the 1984 Olympics in which all large trucks could only deliver in the area between 9:00 p.m. and 5 a.m. Mr. Adams then said that the Committee might have to looking into something of this sort to alleviate the problems we now have. This would augment what is going on with the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports on their efforts to reduce the problems on the 710 and other areas.

**12.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None at this time.

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The Honorable Lee Ann Garcia, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.  
The next committee meeting will be held on  
**March 3, 2005, 10:30 a.m., at the SCAG Office.**



Rich Macias, Manager  
Transportation Planning/Programming Division